Integration of Buddhist Places

560. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to integrate the Buddhist places of interest in Orissa like Ratnagiri, Lalitgiri and Udaygiri, known as Diamond Triangle, with Gaya-Sanchi Circuit and to project them as a package in Buddhist market; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATIRENUKACHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) As a matter of policy, it is the primary responsibility of the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to identify and integrate tourist places in a circuit including Buddhist places of interest in the country. Nevertheless, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India projects the Buddhist sites in India by way of printing of tourist literature, participating in trade and consumer shows in the overseas market. To give a boost to the Buddhist market, the Ministry of Tourism on 17—19 February, 2004, where Buddhist Spiritual leaders, monks, scholars, etc. from the Buddhist countries participated.

The Buddhist Circuit project comprising of Ratnagiri, Udayagiri, Lalitgiri and Langudi in Orissa has been sanctioned for Rs. 736.717 lakh to the State Govt, in the current financial year.

Development of tourist spots in Kerala

561. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what specific projects are under Government's consideration to develop more tourist sports in Kerala in the near future to attract more tourists; and

(b) if so, the locations identified and the amount likely to be spent on them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/ UT Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides central financial assistance to them for setting up infrastructural facilities etc. at important tourist sites.

During the 10th Five Year Plan, Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned the following amounts for the State of Kerala for development of tourism infrastructure:—

Year	Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)
2002-2003	861.36
2003-2004	608.50

Control of Headquarters of Ropar, Ferozepur etc.

†562. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966 the control of Ropar, Harike and Ferozepur Headquarters would have been vested with Bhakra-Beas Management Mandal;

(b) whether a letter dated 24th January, 2004 has been written to him in this regard by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Rajasthan;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAIPRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Section 79(1) of the Punjab Reorganisation Act provides for the Central Government to constitute a Board to be called the Bhakra Management Board (now known as the Bhakra Beas Management Board) for the administration, maintenance and operation of, *interalia,* the irrigation headworks at Ropar, Harike and Ferozepur.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The sub-judice and emotional nature of the issues related to allocation of Ravi Beas waters has been indicated to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Rajasthan in the reply to the letter dated 24th January, 2004 and also in a meeting held on 25.06.2004. The report and advice of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in a Presidential Reference related to Ravi-Beas waters, when available, may help in facilitating early resolution of the issues involved.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.